



MEETING MINUTES / 20 MARCH 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Farley, Showell, Armbruster, Bradley, Johnson (telephone), Lardizzone, Lopez, McMullen, Sarg, Seppala, and Stewart **73%**

Absences: Baldwin, Magner, Newman, and Newstadt

Guests: Ginny Yelland (Wilmington VAMC), Bill Peterson (Delaware Veterans Home), Jessica Finan, Vivian Starnes (DAV Auxiliary), Kim McMullen, Elizabeth Short (DHSS), Carol Johnson (New Century Hospice), John Richter (Sussex Vet Center), Benjamin Flynn (DAV)

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Requested moment of silence for Miami, FL bridge collapse, Iraqi helicopter crash, F-18 plane crash, and Texas pipe bomb victims

MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: Armbruster and Lardizzone

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Ginny Yelland, Public Affairs (via telephone)

Veterans' Summit (Senator Carper) is scheduled for 26 March

Resource Fair, University of Delaware Star Campus, scheduled for 22 March

Kent County CBOC has been approved locally for expansion must proceed to national channels

Meeting with Delaware Veterans Home produced good interaction toward solidifying Tele-Health program (Farley) Are we discussing employee pay discrepancies at Sussex CBOC?

Yes, Senator Carper has been made aware

(Bradley) Are there any Sussex County Town Hall dates?

Town halls are quarterly and will research for Sussex dates

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:

81 residents, three enrolling next week

Admissions will increase following Gold unit opening but will limit to 100 to prepare for Blue unit renovations

New health care contract is being reworked

- Unfortunately Medicaid has not been paid during this action

Gold unit re-opening is 6 April / 1400

- Spoke to Joint Finance Committee and Bond Bill legislators about additional home upgrade funding

(Sarg) Joint Military Affairs Committee requested pay disparity numbers for nursing staff members, please forward

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

13 Males, 4 females, and 2 children

VA inspection items were corrected and no findings exist

(Sarg) Do infants count against the census?

Yes based on fire marshal rules

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Carol Johnson, New Century Hospice

Agency is expanding to Georgetown and Wilmington locations supplementing Smyrna

Appreciates working with veterans

Requesting points of contacts for the sitting veteran service organizations

Elizabeth Short, DHSS, Agency Goal of Hiring Veterans

Outreach program for hiring veterans to fill part-time Social Worker (non-certified) positions

- After hiring members are eligible for merit positions (full-time)

Duty descriptions have been handed out

(Sarg) Do you recognize Licensed Professional Counselors of Mental Health?

Yes, we recognize certified and non-certified behavioral health applicants

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:

Interments – 79

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments – 16

(Showell) Sat in on Conservation Technician V job interviews

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Update on the Military Child Compact

- Military children are identified by name to counter military based dangers or threats

- Over 3,600 children have been identified

- Healthcare providers, counselors, and educators are the only personnel with access to the information

- The bill has been in effect since 2017

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

Legislative agenda for 2018 has been completed and thanks to Commissioner Sarg for his work completing the document

- The agenda will be presented to the Military Affairs committee on 14 March

(Sarg) Discussed the wording changes for the nine proposals

A vote was taken to accept the ninth proposal as an addition to the original document

- Lardizzone made a motion, Armbruster seconded, motion passed

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (AFSA)

8 – 11 March: Attended division convention

14 March: Attended chapter meeting

16 March: Bowling fundraiser was held

Adopt a Highway event is coming in the spring

Commissioner Armbruster (AL)

1 Mar: Conservation Tech Interview Panel Member

- Four were scheduled, only one showed

14 Mar: Attended Nat'l Commander, Denise Rohan, Luncheon at Post 30

- Then Commander went to Wilmington VAMC for a mission briefing

16 Mar: Attended Nat'l Commander's Dinner at Post 14

Starting to receive Boys State applications

- Cutoff date is 1 Apr

- Sessions are 10-14 June at Wesley College

Commissioner Bradley (AMVETS)

21 Feb: Cape Henlopen JROTC thanked AMVETS for sending cadets to Freedom Foundation

24 Mar: Post 2 Ladies Auxiliary Easter Egg Hunt

25 Mar: Post 2 bus trip to Freedom Foundation to attend MOH ceremony honoring Dave Dolby (post's namesake)

29 Mar: Will attend Vietnam Veterans Day event at Georgetown Circle / 1500

Post 2 donated \$4K to DE Veterans Trust Fund

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1105 holds their monthly meetings at Post 2, third Tuesday of each month

You may receive cards requesting information to purchase an AMVETS directory

Commissioner Lardizzone (DAV)

24-27 Mar: Attended DAV Mid-Winter Conference in Crystal City

- Participated in Benefits Protection, Service Officer, and Inspector General Workshops

- Attended National Commander Legislative Program's Joint Veterans Affairs Committee Session

6 Mar: Met new Nat'l Service Officer, Jerry Loudon, assigned to Wilmington VAMC

9-11 Mar: Attended Department of NY, SEC Conference representing District 8

12 Mar: Attended District of CT, DE, and NJ Conference in Atlantic City

13 Mar: Attended Executive Committee Meeting

14 Mar: Attended DCVA's Joint Military Affairs presentation

Commissioner Johnson (KWVA)

10 Mar: Dover AFB Ruck March had 50 participants and raised \$200.00 for organization

24 Mar: Chapter 2 Fundraiser at New Castle Farmer's Market / 0900 - 1500

25 Mar: Medal of Honor Ceremony, RSVP Sherri Leslie (302) 898-1895 or sherrilesie@gmail.com

Chapter 1 Purchased \$17K Action Trackchair for Wounded Warrior Fund

11 Apr: Chapter 1 Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee's (Rehoboth Beach) / 0800 - 1000

Commissioner Farley (MCL)

Still working on veteran and city of Dover homelessness programs

The homeless program helps all veterans regardless of character of discharge

Commissioner Sarg (MOAA)

22 Feb: JROTC Scholarship Fundraiser at Greene Turtle raised \$8K

26 Feb: Delaware Veterans Home Admissions Meeting, waiting list is 160

26 Feb: Delaware Veterans Home Dental Suite Meeting with Secretary of State

1 Mar: Meet Your Legislators Lunch, with Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce featured eight legislators

5 Mar: Military Child Education Compact Commission Meeting

5 Mar: Delaware Brain Injury Committee Meeting

7 Mar: Military Spouse Transition Symposium, Dover AFB featured 50 spouses and emphasized networking

12 Mar: Delaware Veterans Home and Wilmington VAMC Coordination Meeting

13 Mar: Employment First Oversight Commission

14 Mar: Presented DCVA Legislative Concerns and Recommendations to Joint Military Affairs Cmte

15 Mar: Attended Brain Injury Association of Delaware Conference

15 Mar: Attended Veterans Gambling Addiction Conference

15 Mar: Advocated at Legislative Hall on DCVA Legislative Concerns and Recommendations

26 Mar: Senator Carper's VA Summit at Wilmington VAMC

16-19 Apr: "Storming the Hill" in Washington DC on Military Personnel and Military Family Issues

Commissioner Magner (MOPH) Not present but forwarded information

12 Mar: Department donated \$1.5K to Delaware Veterans Trust Fund

12 Mar: Department donated \$1.5K to Delaware USO

19 May: Annual Convention at Dover Downs beginning 1030

- Gary "MO" Morris will be re-elected as Departmental Commander

30 Jul – 3 Aug: National Convention will be in Spokane, WA

Commissioner Newman (VFW)

Not present

Commissioner Baldwin (VVA) Not present but forwarded information

Gold Star Memorial Campaign has raised \$13K of \$20K goal, campaign ends 3 Apr

First week of Apr meeting with three student veteran associations (UD, WilmU, DelTech) to discuss annual fundraising day of giving

Secured two POW/MIA Chairs for DMA and FSMA

- Ceremonies are being planned

VA is establishing Pearl Harbor Memorial at Lake Como

- Securing anchor and chain for display

- Smyrna has donated land

- VVA will raise memorial funds

28 Mar: Speaking at Delaware Railsplitters Association, University & Whist Club, on naval enlistment and public education

Dr Robert Andrzejewski and Commissioner Baldwin are heading up Blue Tech network initiative

- Geared toward opening career for transitioning veterans

- Longwood Foundation is supporting trial program with the business community

24-27 Jul: Instructing senior enlisted Naval and Marine personnel/O-4 and above in San Diego for New Instructor Orientation for JROTC programs

Commissioner Showell (At Large)

261 Signal Brigade is set to return from deployment

28 April: Military Ball

The Delaware National Guard is hosting the Memorial Day Bridge ceremony

General Timmons is the lead for the Legislative Education Task Force

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large)

Not present

Commissioner Seppala (At Large)

22 Feb: Attended "State of the Guard" briefing at Delaware Nat'l Guard headquarters

10 Mar: Start Date for Delaware Military Museum Speakers Program forwarded list to commissioners

Commissioner Lopez (At Large)

23 Feb: Continued coordination for Dover Memorial Day Ceremony, Dover Triangle, on 28 May

27 Feb: Attended VA Outreach Event, Greenwood VFW 7478

3 Mar: Re-installed as DelVets Post 2 Commander

- Post/DVAC Officers honored at installation dinner

8 Mar: Received site visit from AFSC/Magellan Program Manager, Gary Kayser

- Discussed AW2 reset for Delaware
- Addressed Wilmington VAMC/DCVA concerns

19 Mar: Attended Female Veteran Tea Meeting scheduled for 24 Mar/1400, DelVets Post 2
31 Mar: Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Post 2 at Richardson Park
Womens' Monument photographs are due today
Welcome Home Ceremonies are upcoming will provide dates

Commissioner Stewart (At Large)
Seeking a definition of Military Friendly Schools as it applies to local institutions

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF: Requests 14, Granted 10 (71.4%), Awarded \$13,969.08 and Balance \$40,816.00
Discussed House Bill supporting Green Alert Program for missing veterans and service members
- Sponsored by Representative Viola

TERM EXPIRATION:

21 October 2018

EVENTS:

Medal of Honor Ceremony, VFW Post 3792,
25 Mar / 1300
Veterans Summit (Sen Carper), Wilmington VAMC Bldg 5, 26 Mar / 1000
Medal of Honor Ceremony (NABVETS), 18th and Baynard Wilmington, 26 March / 1200
Vietnam Veterans Day, Kent County Memorial Park, 31 March / 1400
DAV Food Truck Competition, Harvest Ridge Winery, 6 April / 1600 and 7 April / 1200
Gold Star Families Memorial Ground Breaking, Delaware Memorial Bridge Park, 9 April / 0900
Transition Summit, Dover AFB, 12 April / 0800 – 1800
Delaware Joining Forces Meeting, Adams State Service Center, 19 April / 0800

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

(Sarg) will be in Washington DC lobbying for national legislative initiatives during the next meeting date
(Armbruster) will be in Boston supporting daughter's marathon run during the next meeting date
(Bradley) will be on vacation during the next meeting date

SPECIAL SESSION:

Julia O'Hanlon, University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration
- Briefed on initiative with Delaware Transit Corporation to update statewide transportation for veterans

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 17 April 2018 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs Conference Room